

Serial No.: 09/994,357
Attorney Docket No.: F-323

Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing notification of an e-mail address change and forwarding messages to forwarding e-mail addresses, the method comprising the steps of:

registering a plurality of subscribers for an e-mail forwarding service, the step of registering comprising:

identifying disfavored e-mail addresses of the subscribers;

identifying forwarding e-mail addresses of the subscribers;

identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients
using the subscribers email address book;

sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification to the identified one or more e-mail address change notification recipients; and

providing a description of the e-mail forwarding service in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification;

associating the disfavored e-mail addresses with the corresponding forwarding e-mail addresses in an e-mail forwarding computer;

providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;

receiving said messages at the electronic address;

identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;

determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address; and

forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address.

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2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of registering further comprises providing a link to a subscriber registration interface in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification.
3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients further comprises selecting recipients from subscribers' e-mail address books.
4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein prior to the step of sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification there is a step of sending a test message to confirm that the forwarding e-mail address is correct.
5. (new) A method for providing notification of an e-mail address change and forwarding messages to forwarding e-mail addresses, the method comprising the steps of:
 - registering a plurality of subscribers for an e-mail forwarding service, the step of registering comprising:
 - identifying disfavored e-mail addresses of the subscribers;
 - identifying forwarding e-mail addresses of the subscribers;
 - identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients;
 - sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification to the identified one or more e-mail address change notification recipients; and
 - providing a description of the e-mail forwarding service in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification;
 - associating the disfavored e-mail addresses with the corresponding forwarding e-mail addresses in an e-mail forwarding computer;

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providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;

receiving said messages at the electronic address;

identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;

determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address;

forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address; and

sending a message including confirmation data relating to the forwarding of the received message.

6. (new) The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the step of registering further comprises providing a link to a subscriber registration interface in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification.

7. (new) The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the step of identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients further comprises selecting recipients from subscribers' e-mail address books.

8. (new) The method as recited in claim 5 wherein prior to the step of sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification there is a step of sending a test message to confirm that the forwarding e-mail address is correct.

9. (new) A method for providing notification of an e-mail address change and forwarding messages to forwarding e-mail addresses, the method comprising the steps of:

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registering a plurality of subscribers for an e-mail forwarding service, the step of registering comprising:

- identifying disfavored e-mail addresses of the subscribers;
- identifying forwarding e-mail addresses of the subscribers;
- identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients;
- sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification to the identified one or more e-mail address change notification recipients; and
- providing a description of the e-mail forwarding service in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification;
- associating the disfavored e-mail addresses with the corresponding forwarding e-mail addresses in an e-mail forwarding computer;
- providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;
- receiving said messages at the electronic address;
- identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;
- determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address;
- requesting permission to forward the received message from the sender; and
- if permission is received, forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address.

10. (new) The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the step of registering further comprises providing a link to a subscriber registration interface in the pre-generated e-mail address change notification.

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11. (new) The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the step of identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients further comprises selecting recipients from subscribers' e-mail address books.
12. (new) The method as recited in claim 9 wherein prior to the step of sending a pre-generated e-mail address change notification there is a step of sending a test message to confirm that the forwarding e-mail address is correct.